

Stop hidden phone fees so I can truly compare prices of phone services. I am writing in support of the petition filed by the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates and endorsed by other consumer advocacy organizations. CG Docket No. 04-208, Petition for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Truth-In-Billing and Billing Format, is long overdue. Many consumers feel as I do -- annoyed with a long list of new charges and frustrated with trying to compare prices when shopping for telecommunications service. Phone bills should be truthful, easy to read and easy to understand. Instead, the long distance and wireless bills are filled with surcharges with misleading names that imply the line items are mandated by law, when they are not. Because this practice is tolerated by the FCC, long distance and wireless phone companies are able to hide the true cost of service. These add-ons make the advertised price of service significantly less than the amount of the check I have to write each month to pay the bill. Competition will not work if consumers cannot accurately compare prices. Many states are stepping up to address this problem. They should be allowed to proceed. However, the FCC shouldn't shirk its responsibility, nor limit states in doing more. The FCC should immediately grant the NASUCA petition to investigate billing practices, and prohibit phone and wireless companies from imposing separate monthly fees, line items or surcharges unless expressly mandated by law or the charge is expressly authorized by a governmental authority. Yet another example of a greed crazed corporate manipulation of law by government agency indifference to the financial welfare of the consumer public they've been charged with protecting. If there's a loophole that can generate money that's not actually been earned, and if the government and its watchdog agencies are willing to ignore the problem (usually because these corporations happen to be

wealthy and generous political PAC contributors), then only those who are the victims are left to light a fire under said agencies and political hacks. This particular issue is one me and my family have confronted phone companies with but have had no recourse in rectifying. Their supercilious and cavalier manner, once you've bought into their plans is a flagrant economic, ethical and moral slap in the face to the honest consumer. That it's done with such impunity is another rage-inducing indictment of governmental political misfeasance and unwillingness to do their jobs when money from potential large monetary political donors is at stake. This is also known as corruption and must be put to an end along with the myriad other hidden techniques such as corruption enables commerce and industry; the corporate elite...to fleece the unwary citizenry.